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 Boulder Daily Camera

The Department of Energy at Rocky Flats Plant

Environmental Assessment on Partial Closure of Solar Ponds

The U.S. Department of Energy's Environmental Assessment (EA) on its proposal to partially close five solar evaporation ponds at the Rocky Flats Plant is now available to the public. Based on the Environmental Assessment, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has determined that the proposed action is not a federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Both the EA and the FONSI can be reviewed at the locations listed on the right:

Partial closure of the solar evaporation ponds, as proposed by DOE, would be accomplished according to the requirements of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The five solar ponds are the only solar evaporation ponds that exist at the Rocky Flats Plant. The proposed activity would involve dewatering the ponds, where necessary, and converting any remaining sludge or evaporator concentrate to solid waste forms called pondcrete and saltcrete, which would be shipped offsite for disposal. The pond sites would be stabilized to prevent erosion or other disturbance to the soil and to prevent infiltration of rain or snowmelt.

Before implementation, the Colorado Department of Health and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would have to approve dewatering of the ponds as an interim measure. The interim measure would be in place until 1994, when removal and remediation of the RCRA-closed ponds would be initiated under the Interagency Agreement among DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Colorado Department of Health.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 Superfund Records Center
 999 18th Street, 5th floor
 Denver, Colorado 80202-2405
 303-293-1807

U.S. Department of Energy
 Rocky Flats Public Reading Room
 Front Range Community College Library
 3645 West 112th Avenue
 Westminster, Colorado 80030
 303-469-4435

Colorado Department of Health
 4210 East 11th Avenue, Room 351
 Denver, Colorado 80220
 303-331-4830

**Rocky Flats Environmental
 Monitoring Council**
 1536 Cole Boulevard, Suite 325, Building 4
 Denver West Office Park
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 303-232-1966

U.S. Department of Energy
 Freedom of Information Office
 1000 Independence Avenue, SW
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
 ROCKY FLATS OFFICE

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